## ONSORTIA CONNECTION Summer/Fall, 1997

Celebrate Learning

Alberta Education home page: http://ednet.edc.gov.ab.ca

#### Partners in Learning

Research shows...

Joyce L. Epstein, is co-director of the Center on Families, Communities, Schools, and Children's Learning and codirector of the Schools, Family and Community Partnerships Program in the Center for Research on the Education of Student Placed at Risk, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. In School/Family/Community Partnerships: Caring for the Children We Share, Phi Delta Kappan, May 1995, p. 701. Epstein summarizes her theory, framework, and guidelines that can assist schools in building partnerships. Epstein writes, "If educators view students as children, they are likely to see both the family and the community as partners with the school in children's education and development. Partners recognize their shared interests in and responsibilities for children, and they work together to create better programs and opportunities for students." Further, "in a partnership, teachers and administrators create more family-like schools. ...In a partnership, parents create more school-like families. ... Communities also create family-like settings, services, and events to enable families to better support their children...When all these concepts combine, children

experience learning communities or caring communities." p. 702. Epstein outlines a Framework of Six Types of Involvement. Briefly, these six types are:

- 1. Parenting
- 2. Communicating
- 3. Volunteering
- 4. Learning at Home
- 5. Decision Making
- 6. Collaborating with Community

What plans have been made to create an action team and implement a successful learning partnership in your school community? Have you considered asking the regional consortium nearest you to provide assistance in developing the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for an Action Team for School, Family, and Community Partnership to

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CAMP

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Alberta Assessment Consortium

support student learning? There are several very valuable resources available to support schools, school councils and jurisdictions to create effective learning partnerships.

The Alberta Teachers' Association has developed a manual to enhance plans and dialogue about parents, students, teachers and the community as education partners. It contains ideas about successful programs in Alberta schools where partnerships for student learning are growing. Partners in Learning manuals were sent to every school in fall 1996. Ask your school principal or school council chair to share this valuable manual at staff and school council meetings. Extra copies may also be obtained for \$20.00 from the ATA: phone 1-800-232-7208.

The School Council Resource Manual, 1995 also has excellent strategies to assist in developing effective school councils to support student learning. Copies were sent to all schools in October 1995. You can access the Resource Manual on the Alberta Education web site at http://ednet-.edc.gov.ab.ca. Just search Partners.

School-Based Decision Making Resource Guide: Focus on Teaching and Learning will be sent to all school principals and school council chairs in fall, 1997. This support document contains practical strategies for use by teachers, principals, school council members, trustees, support staff, superintendents and secretary-treasurers. The Resource Guide is made-in-Alberta and contains stories and strategies of successful school-based decision making policies and procedures from across the province. The Resource Guide speaks to the importance of enhanced teaching and learning

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	Ro	uting Slip Please help us provide this infor-		
	mati	mation to all potential consortia program participants.		
	Please pass Consortia Connections on after you			
	have	e read it!		
		Teachers		
□ School Council Members				
		P.D. Chairs		
		Trustees		
		Central Office Staff		
		Support Staff		

as the goal of school-based decision making. The guide is designed to support the implementation of school-based decision making which benefits Alberta students. The guide also will be accessible on the Alberta Education web site.

#### CELEBRATE LEARNING

Alberta school council members, teachers, principals, support staff, superintendents, secretary-treasurers and trustees believe in learning! Between September 1, 1996 and April 30, 1997 close to 9000 adult learners participated in over 300 inservice, training and professional development programs offered by regional consortium. Adult learning involvement is expected to increase in 1997-98 as the work of the regional consortia become better known across the province. If you haven't yet had the opportunity to participate in a regional consortium learning program, be sure to obtain a copy of its newsletter or call the executive director.

Have a suggestion to offer?

Want assistance to coordinate, organize, or promote your inservice program?

Call the executive director of your local regional consortium.

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#### Central Alberta Regional Consortium

Shirley Van Eaton, Executive Director Phone: 342-3476, Fax: 343-1033 or email: svaneaton@rdc.ab.ca Newsletter: Wavelengths

Central Alberta Regional Consortium serves eight jurisdictions and eleven private schools. 968 participants were involved in 44 programs between September 1, 1996 and April 30, 1997. Central Alberta also initiated its PDPRO program involving over 8000 participants including many hundreds of students. Check with Shirley about this innovative school and community based professional development program which involves teachers, support staff, administrators, parents and students.

That's performance!!

#### CENTRAL ALBERTA ON THE WEB

Check out the new Central Alberta Regional Consortium web site at www.carc.reddeer.com. A local team of web site wizards have identified over 600 additional sites, some of which contain additional links within. A brief description follows each site and if possible, the link to Alberta curriculum is shown. For example Netscape

Route 6-16 at http://www.microsys.com616default.htm is maintained by Microsystems Software. It contains thousands of education links on many subjects of interest to parents and teachers. Three main subject areas include play, school work and parents and teachers.

#### Applied Technical Communication Handbook

One of the major objectives of the regional consortium is to share good professional development ideas across the province. So, if you are outside the Central Alberta Regional Consortium area, you might want to check out some of its curriculum projects. For example, phone Shirley and ask about the Applied Technical Communication Handbook being prepared by Central Alberta teachers for use at the elementary, middle and high school level. The handbook contains activities designed to give teachers quick access to suggestions for teaching their students valuable technical communication skills.

#### SUMMER WORKSHOPS AND PROGRAMS

Christian Schools International District #11

Educational Leadership Workshop

Central Alberta Christian High School, Lacombe
July 14 -25, 1997.

To register or for more information call 469-9653.

Assured Readiness for Learning
August 18 - 21, 1997
For details, call or fax the consortium office.

## WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS IN THE FALL ISSUE OF WAVELENGTHS

- \* Using Achievement Test Results
- \* Early Reading Intervention Outreach Program
- Young Offender Protocol
- \* Technology Workshops

October 4, 1997, **Teaming Up:** A conference for those who work with special needs students: teaching assistants, teachers, parents, principals, counsellors, education students and student teaching assistants.

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#### **Edmonton Regional Consortium**

Bill Lockhart, Executive Director Phone 492-5339, Fax 492-0390 or e-mail: bfl@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca Newsletter: FRONTLINE

ERC serves 22 jurisdictions and 7 private schools. 1681 participants took part in consortium programs between September 1, 1996 and April 30, 1997.

Edmonton Regional Consortium now has new professional development materials available for 'train the trainer' sessions. Technology in the Classroom: A Guide for the Education Technology Planning Team was developed for the consortium by Edna Dach, Elk Island Public Schools. A Collection of Connections for Western Canada Protocol Junior High Mathematics includes a teacher's manual and student handbook. Developers Sol Sigurdson and Tom Kieren, University of Alberta, have taken twelve activities and developed them into lessons. CTS Leadership Modules A Teacher's Manual including a collection of valuable handouts for classroom use has been developed by Sue Leighton-Nipp and Holly Tibble.

The ERC will be holding train the trainer sessions on the above materials in September 1997.

1997 SUMMER INSTITUTES
Call the Consortium for details

Connecting with Alberta's
New Mathematics Curriculum

Leadership Development

Refuelling the Education Team: Changing Appraisal to Collaborative Approaches to Professional Learning

Ready for the Future - Strategies for a Right Start for new and returning classroom teachers

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR FALL PROGRAMS

A Community of Leaders and Learners Conference Series for School Council Members begins September 20, 1997

Technability: Improving Student Achievement in an Electronic World
November 7 and 8, 1997

Literacy in the 21st Century
October 24, 1997
Behavior/Classroom Management Conference
Edmonton and Lethbridge
May 1 and 2, 1998

Check the Edmonton Regional Consortium web site at <a href="http://www.ualberta.ca/~cpe/erc.htm">http://www.ualberta.ca/~cpe/erc.htm</a> for details about these and other programs.

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#### Learning Network

Earl Choldin, Executive Director Phone: 492-0454, Fax: 492-0390 or e-mail: LearningNet@faculty.educ.ualberta.ca Newsletter PD NEWS

Learning Network serves 7 jurisdictions and one private school. Between September 1, 1996 and April 30, 1997 close to 1000 adult learners participated in professional development programs designed to improve their skills to work with children.

#### FALL PROGRAMS BEING SET

Student-teacher relations with Michael Valentine Two weekends in October and November.

> Developing Your Disciplinary Plan Interactive Television Conference November 6 and 20, 1997

Solution-Focused Approach to Solving School Problems

**Early Reading Intervention** 

Six days of learning over five months in Bonnyville and Lac La Biche with Moira Juliebo, Peggy Kickham, and Judy Pool

Using the Internet in the Classroom

Working with Students with Special Needs Being planned for teacher aides

#### **BEYOND EXPECTATIONS**

What's Worth It With Middle Level Children August 21, 22 and 23, 1997 Grand Centre High School Cold Lake, Alberta

Come and see the beauty of northeastern Alberta and answer your questions about teaching middle level children. This conference is geared to those people who teach children between the ages of 10-14 years and its purpose is to provide educators and others with proactive ways to work with each other and the children to bring out the very best in themselves and their students. Featuring Dr. Nancy Doda as well as Jim Burns, Lea MacDonald, Jane Ripkens.

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#### Calgary Regional Consortium

Jean Hoeft, Executive Director Phone: 291-0967, Fax: 250-3204 or e-mail: crc@rockyview.ab.ca Newsletter CRC UPDATE

Calgary Regional Consortium serves 6 jurisdictions and 14 private schools. In its first eight months of operation, over 1300 participants were involved in 47 programs. Student learning depends on skilled and knowledgeable adult learners!

#### FALL PROGRAM PLANS

Diploma Exams and Achievement Test Workshops Behavior Management CTS: Sexual and Reproductive Health Programs

Division II Math Workshop Series
Early Reading Intervention Series
Elementary Music, Math and Science
Computer Guided Learning
Mediation Skills

Effective Newsletters
Multiple Intelligence

Programs for new administrators and teachers
Quality Teaching

School Council Show-Case
Technology Workshops for support and non-teaching
staff.....and....there's more.

Call the consortium for program information, pick up a copy of **CRC UPDATE** or visit us on the web.

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#### Southern Alberta Professional Development Consortium

Louise Beermann, Executive Director Phone: 381-5580, Fax: 329-2252 or e-mail: allaf0@uleth.ca Newsletter PD PEDDLER

SAPDC serves 10 jurisdictions and 6 private schools and has been in operation since 1989. 3735 people participated in 47 programs between in the 1996-97 school year.

Programs being developed for Fall 1997

- \* Developing Teacher Evaluation Plans
- \* Building Individual Professional Development Plans
- \* Junior High Math Parent Information
- \* Technology Conference Student Outcomes
- \* Safe and Caring Schools
- \* Fine Arts Symposium
- \* Secondary Mathematics Program
- \* Western Protocol Language Arts
- \* Action Research Projects....and much more

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#### Northwest Regional Learning Consortium

Shona Sekulic Executive Director Phone: 1-800-864-4140, Fax: 864-2773 or email nrlc@agt.net Newsletter P.D. PIPELINE

Northwest Regional Learning Consortium serves 11 school jurisdictions. Geographically, NRLC reaches out across over half the province of Alberta where about 32,000 students attend 150 schools. 2106 adults participated in Northwest Regional Learning professional development and inservice programs in its first eight months of operation.

### SUMMER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

SchoolNet and the Internet August 18, 1997 Designing a Web Page August 21, 1997

#### **LOOK WHAT'S COMING IN 1997-1998**

Parenting with Wit and Wisdom with Barbara Coloroso March 4, 1998

Planning has begun for:

- \* Teaching on the net
- \* Beginning Teachers: Motivating and Mentoring
- \* Time/Stress Management
- \* Sessions for Teacher Assistants
  - O Behavior Management
  - ♦ Values and Attitudes
  - ♦ Planning and Organizing
  - ♦ ADHD, FAS and more
- \* Ongoing technology workshops
- \* Developing professional growth plans
- \* Elementary science
- \* School council conference and workshops
- \* Native Support Workers' Conference
- Developing school plans
- \* Lion's Ouest
- \* Administrators' Leadership Institute

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## Classroom Assessment Materials Project (CAMP)

The six regional consortia successfully hosted twelve "train the trainer" CAMP workshops around the province between March 13 and April 9. Two teams of Alberta Educaion CAMP staff conducted the series of one-day ses-

sions, training over 1000 Alberta and Northwest Territories teachers. The purpose of the training session was to prepare lead teachers to give future CAMP presentations. Follow-up support information such as CAMP contact names and frequently asked questions are posted on the Alberta Education web site. Contact the regional consortium in your area for information regarding future Classroom Assessment Materials Project inservice programs or phone Terry Gamble at 422-4411, Student Evaluation Branch if you have questions about CAMP. To order your own Classroom Assessment materials, contact the Learning Resources Distributing Centre (LRDC) at 427-5775.

#### CONSORTIA HAVE LINKS WITH MANY **EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS.....**

#### Alberta Assessment Consortium (AAC)

WHO? The AAC is a non-profit partnership of school jurisdictions and educational organizations formed to enhance the quality of student assessment in the classroom. Our membership currently consists of 28 school boards, Alberta Education and the Alberta Teachers' Association. We represent over 70% of the students in Alberta.

#### WHAT'S OUR PURPOSE? We aim to:

- develop a broad range of assessment materials that are directly tied to the Alberta curriculum, based on grade level standards, and will enhance student learning;
- support teachers by providing opportunities for  $\Rightarrow$ quality staff development;
- $\Rightarrow$ facilitate networking and sharing of knowledge, skills, and expertise; and
- establish liaisons with other agencies.  $\Rightarrow$

#### WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR? The Assessment Consortium has been in operation since January 1994. We have:

- ♦ produced a Resource Inventory which lists the assessment materials, policies, resource materials, and on-going projects that member boards have developed
- held workshops which enabled staff to share and to discuss such issues as Challenge Assessment and computerized tracking of student performance
- sponsored the Summer Institute on Student Assessment in the Classroom (SISAC)
- developed a variety of assessment material by bringing together over 200 teachers from across the province in summer workshop
- provided a number of workshops and p.d. sessions to schools and school systems on student assessment
- ♦ assisted several PD committees with the organization of Institute Days on student assessment
- ♦ facilitated school jurisdictions and schools to share information and common interests about student assessment.

#### WHAT KINDS OF ASSESSMENT MATERIAL DO WE OFFER?

Science	1-6	Performance-type activities
Math	1-9	Performance-type activities
Math	4-5, 7-9	Translations of samples
En Francais		of English Math

Language Arts 1-9 Performance-type activities FSL Beginner Performance-type activities French Immersion K-3 Performance-type activities Course Challenges in Math 10, 13, 20, 23; Science 10, 20; CALM 20; Social Studies 10, 20; English 10, 13, 20, 23, 30, 33; Biology 20 Comprehensive exams

#### ANNUAL EVENTS...

#### August 18-22 Summer Institute on Student Assessment in the Classroom (SISAC)

Workshop topics include Performance Assessment, Scoring Rubrics, Diagnostic Assessment, Reporting Student Marks, Reporting to Parents, Student-led Conferences, Grade Level Standards

#### Summer Assessment Development Workshop

For one week teachers from member jurisdictions participate in this excellent professional development opportunity to develop assessment materials.

Annual Fall Conference "So How's My Kid Doing?" Assessing and Communicating Student Learning to be held in Calgary November 13-15, 1997.

For more information about the Alberta Assessment Consortium: web site: www.aac.ab.ca e-mail: Dknight@compusmart.ab.ca or call Doug Knight or Marianne Cadrin at the Alberta Assessment Consortium 447-9420 or fax: 455-6481

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#### Annual ATA SOCIAL STUDIES CONFERENCE

#### Democracy in Transition - Preparing for the Next Millennium

October 2 - 4, 1997

Coast Plaza Hotel, Calgary

Keynote speaker: Dr. Benjamin Barber "Democracy and the New World Order"

For further information contact Craig Harding at 777-7870 or Kay Haslett 777-8780 (ext. 229) Registration information available from Sharyn

Dickson at 777-7329 or fax: 777-7322

Preview Conference '97 is on our website at http:// www.cadvision.com/atasscouncil/Homepage.htm

#### INDIVIDUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS: A PATH TO GROWTH

by G. R. Thomas, A.T.A

The much awaited provincial teacher evaluation policy will require teachers to develop professional development plans each year. This is a welcome direction that will provide an opportunity for solid professional growth and reflection. While the exact details of the policy have not yet been announced, it's certainly possible to review what's likely ahead.

The policy will require each teacher to develop an individual PD plan each year in collaboration with the principal. The plan should be the teacher's plan (i.e., the teacher knows the teacher's own PD needs the best) The plan should consider the individual school, system and provincial PD goals and needs. In the end, however, the plan needs to be relevant to the teacher's PD needs. In other words, it is not essential to tie the plan to school PD or system PD. If a teacher feels challenged by a new curriculum or certain students in the teacher's class, the focus of the PD plan may well reflect these challenges rather than the school's PD focus of, say, technology. The teacher will have a responsibility to complete the plan and the principal and teacher will meet at the end of the school year to discuss the plan and the activities. For the process to work, the teacher needs to be able to focus on a PD plan that will genuinely improve practice. It can't be window dressing; it needs to reflect directions that will actually improve the teacher's teaching. In this respect, the teacher needs to control the individual PD plan process. There should be adequate guarantees in the provincial teacher evaluation policy for this process to work to everyone's advantage.

The Association has developed workshops in individual PD plans and these are available on a limited basis. Contact Janey Kemp in Professional Development at Barnett House (1-800-232-7208). If you have questions about individual PD plans, contact Gordon Thomas, at Barnett House.

Dr. Gordon Thomas is a member of the executive staff of the ATA. He works in the professional development program and is responsible for Association work in curriculum, student evaluation, and teacher evaluation. A graduate of the Universities of Lethbridge and Alberta, Dr. Thomas joined ATA staff in 1984 after teaching in the Sturgeon School Division. He is also adjunct professor of education at the University of Alberta and a founding member of the Southern Alberta Professional Development Consortium Board of Directors.

The above article is reprinted from the Spring, 1997 issue of

PD Peddler (SAPDC Newsletter) with the permission of Dr. Gordon Thomas.

#### CTS '97 Summer Leadership Institute

for Teachers, Counsellors and Administrators August 19-22, 1997 Olds College, Olds, Alberta

The CTS Leadership Seminar will provide opportunities to work with selected CTS strands through talking, sharing, working and doing. You can come for one, two, three, or all four days and select from one-hour, half-day or full-day sessions. For more information contact:

Gary Bertrand, Program Consultant, CTS, Alberta Education, Phone: 297-5022, Fax: 297-3842 e-mail: Gbertrand@edc.gov.ab.ca OR Yvonne Norton, Continuing Professional Education, University of Alberta Phone: 492-4209, Fax: 492-0390 e-mail: yvonne.norton@ualberta.ca

Registration forms at http://ednet.edc.gov.ab.ca

# REGIONAL CONSORTIA offer support to boards and schools to implement school-based decision making focused on teaching and learning...

Six regional consortia have operated in Alberta during 1996-97. Each regional consortium is governed by a board of directors made up of local representatives appointed by the education partner organizations— CASS, ATA, AHSCA, ASBOA, ASBA and the University or College in its region. One full year into operation, the consortia recognize that an important step in maintaining a successful organization is ensuring that the primary purpose remains clear to all participants. William Bergquist, writing in the PostModern Organization: Mastering the Art of Irreversible Change, states, "Organizations today are poised on the edge of chaos-caught in the unpredictable, ambiguous postmodern era where the systems of the past no longer apply and the rules of the future have not yet been made clear. Just as postmodern art or architecture brings together old and new elements to create an entirely new style, the postmodern organization blends dimensions of the past and present to create new forms and the need for new skills and attitudes. The ways in which organizations operate have been forever changed and only those who understand these changes will be prepared to succeed in the emerging postmodern world." Can regional

consortia help your school or jurisdiction with its plans to support changes in education?

We think we can. Regional consortia are vehicles to link professional development, inservice and training resources at the local, regional and provincial level to support the development of the knowledge and skills necessary for all people who influence student learning.

Regional consortia continue to focus on their six primary purposes:

- support the successful implementation of school jurisdiction goals as identified in board education plans and school plans as well as the goals and strategies of the government three-year plan for education.
- broker, coordinate, evaluate, and act as a clearinghouse for available training and development resources.
- may undertake the development of professional development programs to meet emerging education needs. For example, integration of technology to improve student learning.
- provide a collaborative and coordinate approach to the delivery and support of ongoing professional development opportunities for all participants in education.
- help implement school-based decision making, school councils and the functions included in redefined roles and responsibilities.
- provide improved access to inservice, training and professional development programs at a reasonable cost.

Provincial School-Based Decision Making Policy suggests that a school board, with staff and school council members, should develop an inservice and professional development plan to support the implementation of school-based decision making. This plan may be developed in collaboration with the regional professional development consortium. The following is a sample board inservice and professional development plan to support its goals to improve student learning. This sample plan is meant to spark ideas of how you might work with your regional consortium to support the implementation of school-based decision making which is focused on student learning.

## SAMPLE SCHOOL BOARD INSERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

**BOARD OR SCHOOL GOAL:** to improve student achievement and diploma examination scores in secondary mathematics

The Board will partner with the regional consortium and its other participating boards to develop a three year professional development program for secondary mathematics teachers to support them in the implementation of the West-

ern Protocol Mathematics Curriculum. Through the regional consortia the board will:

- develop and conduct a needs assessment to determine the needs of secondary mathematics teachers in relation to the new curriculum
- develop a program that is modeled on National Staff Development Council Standards for Staff Development
- develop a corps of teacher-facilitators to plan and deliver the program
- develop a tool to evaluate the effect of the program on student achievement

The board will support the program by:

- ensuring adequate monies are available for secondary mathematics inservice
- making secondary mathematics teachers and their principals aware that this program is a priority for our board
- designating an associate superintendent with direct responsibility for coordinating the program with the regional consortium and for reporting results to the board

BOARD OR SCHOOL GOAL From within a district Technology Plan: to support the integration of technology into curriculum by providing technology-related inservice, training and/or professional development to school administrators, teachers, support staff, school council and parents.

The board will request that the Executive Director of the regional consortium consult with the district Technology Planning Committee to:

- develop and conduct a needs assessment in the district
- develop an ongoing, job-embedded staff development program based on NSCD Standards for Professional Development
- broker inservice and training programs for the district
- coordinate inservice and training programs with neighboring districts to reduce costs
- develop a program assessment tool that will also serve as an ongoing needs assessment

The board will support this work by:

- earmarking 30% of the district technology budget to professional development
- seeking a business partnership in the community to provide in-kind services related to professional development i.e., labs or instructors

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THE INTERNET - GUIDE FOR PARENTS
In collaboration with the National PTA and the National

Urban League, The Children's Partnership has just released a new publication, "The Parents' Guide to the Information Superhighway: Rules and Tolls for Families Online". This guide for parents in an online world offers practical help for parents as they explore the Internet with their children at home, in the community and at school. Along with an "Action Sheet for Parents", the guide is designed to encourage parents' involvement with schools and community policy decisions. Available online at http://www.childrenspartnership.org. It is also available as a print publication. Price per copy is \$8.00 US. Write to the Children's Partnership/Tides Center, 1460 4th St., Ste. 306, Santa Monica. CA 90410

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY HOTLINE PROVIDES TEACHER RESOURCES

Alberta Science and Technology hotlines promote awareness of science, engineering and technology, particularly among elementary, junior and senior high school students. Teachers and community group leaders with requests for service or questions call the Hotline Coordinator who maintains a database of volunteers from many scientific fields.

Services—The coordinator responds to requests by finding a volunteer in the specific area that has the interest and time to fill the request. A single phone call to the Hotline connects the teacher directly to professional scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians with a four week lead to arrange classroom visits. Volunteers are professionals interested in proofing science education, are available during school hours, have a degree/diploma in an area of science, engineering or technology, or have a very strong interest/knowledge in a particular area through membership in a related professional society, project or club.

If you wish to utilize the hotline services, contact: Michael Caley, The Science & Technology Hotline (Edmonton) 403-448-0055, Email: hotline@oanet.com

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Regional Learning Consortium

## PEMBINA HILLS REGIONAL DIVISION develops outstanding technology PD program!

This summer Pembina Hills Regional Division presents its sixth annual summer computer camp for teachers—an outstanding technology professional development program. Last year approximately 128 participants attended 150 courses.

All employees of Pembina HIlls Regional Division are invited to participate in this hands-on camp, to be held August 18-22 in Barrhead. Participants can attend any number of days choosing from one to five classes. There is no

cost for instruction and lunch is included.

Why is the camp so popular? "We have a committed group of teachers who want to upgrade their skills in the use of technology and are willing to give up part of their summer," according to David Panas, Associate Superintendent.

The courses are based on a needs assessment. This year participants can choose from such courses as Claris Works, Introduction to Computers for Absolute Beginners, Introduction to the Internet, Using Internet for Instruction, Advanced Internet, Multimedia Presentations and many more.

The courses are conducted by Pembina Hills staff, consultants, and software suppliers.

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## BUFFALO TRAIL REGIONAL DIVISION DEVELOPS INNOVATIVE PROGRAM Growing and Learning Together—Professional Growth Model

The Buffalo Trail Regional Division has developed a computer assisted teacher evaluation instrument that both improves and simplifies the teacher evaluation process. The model utilizes pre and post classroom observations. Computer templates and NCR forms contain the performance standards and their indicators as time-saving macros. This enables the evaluator to quickly insert consistent and concise language into all documents and reports. Report writing is then made easier with a standardized format that is aligned with the other portions of the evaluation process.

The performance standards are divided into the areas of: Planning (diagnosis, content, analysis, prescription); Evaluation (assessment procedures, diagnosis, reporting); and Professional Image (communication, responsibility, growth).

Some of the highlights of the professional growth model are:

- ⇒ it follows provincial policies
- ⇒ provides a common language for both employers and employees
- ⇒ affords an opportunity to provide accurate, validated and specific data in a direct yet supportive environment
- ⇒ focuses on the improvement of instruction to increase learning
- ⇒ assures the governing board and the community that the system is accountable for providing quality teaching.

  For further information please contact Barry Wowk at Buffalo Trail Regional Division #28, 842-6144, fax 842-3255.

  Reprinted from PDNEWS, a publication of Learning Network.

## MORE INFORMATION

If you need more information on consortia or if you would like to see a particular issue discussed in Consortia Connections newsletter, call:

Pearl Gregor, Education Manager, Regional Office Branch 8: 427-2952 Fax: 422-9682, or

□: pgregor@edc.gov.ab.ca In AB call Toll Free: 310-0000